Stepping up of Pak ISI operations

1068. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th December, 1993, captioned "Pak stepping up ISI operations":

(b) If so, whether the activities of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan have been spreading in the neighbouring countries also;

(c) whether the ISI has been operating in India at a vast scale; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Regrettably, in contravention of the universally accepted norms of inter-state conduct. Pakistan is misusing the territory of neighbouring countries in carrying out its terrorist activities directed against India.

(c) Government are aware of the aim of Pak ISI to carry out espionage, subversion and sabotage in India in a clandestine manner.

(d) Government have conveyed its concern to neighbouring countries about anti-India activities being carried out by Pakistan from their soil.

Government have and will take all measures to combat the activities directed against the country's security interests.

Delegations visiting foreign countries

1069. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of delegations which visited other countries with an invitation from the host country Governments, during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details, countrywise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending passport applications in Hyderabad

1070. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of passport applications that are pending with Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad ;

(b) since when these are pending ;

(c) what is the number of passports that are cleared every month; and

(d) what steps are being taken to minimise the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The total number of passport applications pending at PO Hyderabad as on 18-2-94 was 23516. The number of applications pending for over one month on 18-2-94 was 12489.

(c) The actual number of passports issued varies from one month to another. The average number of passports issued per month in 1993 by the Passport Office Hyderabad was 17924.

(d) Government have taken a number of steps to minimise delays and expedite the issue of passports which *inter alia* include augmentation of the staff strength, stabilising the supply of passport booklets, streamlining procedures and the introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme.

1071. [*Transferred to the 7th March*, 1994.]

Russsian assurance to India over Kashmir

1072. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has assured India that emergence of ultra nationalist forces in its newly elected Parliament will not effect Indian factor in its foreign policy;

(b) if so, whether Russia clearly and openly Supports India in regard to Kashmir : and

(c) whether Russia has also criticized Pak for internationalizing Kashmir issue and as reiterated that India and Pak should start negotiations under Simla Agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) . (a) to (c) In his Republic Day message of congratulations President Yeltsin had stated that Russia and India "are united not only be the concurrence of core natinal interests and adherence to democratic objectives but also by the invaluable potential of mutual trust and sincere goodwill".

No assurance of this nature is considered necessary nor has it been requested. It would be recalled that during his visit to India in January, 1993, President Yeltsin had publicly stated that Russia supported India's position on Kashmir firmly.

Recently, the Russian Government has reiterated its support for the resumption of negotiations between India and Pakistan without the internationalization of the Kashmir issue.

P.M.'s visit to US

1073. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister has decided not to visit US at present and has postponed the date ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in view of the attitude adopted by Pakistan in raising Kashmir question in Geneva and in other fora India has stalled the talks being held between both the countries ;

(c) if so, whether India pointed out that no useful purpose will be served to continue the talks until and unless Pak stops raising Kashmir issue in International fora ;

(d) whether the recent statement made by US President about human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab has encouraged Pak to adopt such attitude ;

(e) if so, whether US Government has deputed Asstt. Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs to visit India; and

(f) if so, whether Government have made it categorical that US intervention in internal affairs of India will not help in creating good relations between the countries and will also not help in solving problems between India and Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Dates for Prime Minister, visit to the US have not yet been finalised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) India has pointed out that Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue will impact on the Indo-Pak bilateral dialogue.

(d) Government have conveyed to the US Administration that repeated reference lacking in balance and proper perpective with respect to Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab by the US Administration tend to provide encouragement to Pakistan.

(e) US Government has conveyed that Asstt. Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs is planning to visit India. Dates are yet to be finalised.

(f) Government have categorically stated that we will not brook interference by any country in our internal affairs. Government also rejects third party mediation in regard to outstanding issues between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan's efforts to destabilise the South Asian region

1074. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is making efforts to destabilise the South Asian region and has awarned the world community against threats to the political unity and peace of States ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken by our Government in the matter ?